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GOVERNOR

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R. VERNON MINTON, DIRECTOR
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

COMMERCIAL HOOK & LINE LICENSE



LICENSE: **Resident:** **\$101.00** plus annual saltwater rod and reel license
 Nonresident: **\$201.00** plus annual nonresident saltwater rod and reel license

- Commercially licensed fishermen can sell their catch **only to a licensed Alabama seafood dealer.**
- No person may **sell, trade, or barter - or possess or transport for commercial purposes - any redfish, speckled trout or tarpon caught in Alabama waters.**
- Season **closes in state waters** for red snapper, king mackerel and sharks **upon closure of federal waters.**
- It is **unlawful to use** any snag line, trot line, long line or other hook and line device containing **more than five hooks** in waters under Marine Resources Division jurisdiction.
- It is **unlawful to possess** in Alabama any species of saltwater fish or seafood product **taken** in federal waters or the waters of another state **unlawfully in violation of any applicable federal or other state creel, possession, or size limit.**

Commercial Possession and Size Limits for Alabama are as follows:

Species	Commercial Possession	Minimum length in inches
Red Snapper	see (1)(a), (b), (c) on reverse	15" TL
Cobia (Ling)	2	33" FL
Gray triggerfish	No Bag Limit	12" TL
Gag grouper	No Bag Limit	24" TL
Red Grouper	No Bag Limit	20" TL
Black Grouper	No Bag Limit	22" TL
Yellowfin Grouper	No Bag Limit	20" TL
Scamp	No Bag Limit	16" TL
Striped bass	No Bag Limit	16" TL
Florida pompano	No Bag Limit	12" TL
Vermilion snapper	No Bag Limit	10" TL
Lane snapper	No Bag Limit	8" TL
Gray snapper	No Bag Limit	12" TL
Tripletail (Blackfish)	3	16" TL
Flounder	No Bag Limit	12" TL
King mackerel	No Bag Limit	24" FL
Greater amberjack	No Bag Limit	36" FL
Mullet	see (2) on reverse	No Size Limit
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	see (3) on reverse	No Size Limit
All other Sharks	see (3) on reverse	54" FL

NO POSSESSION LIMIT OR SIZE LIMIT ON SPECIES NOT LISTED



(1) Red Snapper - Fishermen taking red snapper for commercial purposes from Alabama waters must fish from a vessel holding a federal reef-fish commercial vessel permit and a Class 1 or Class 2 license.

- (a) A vessel holding a **valid federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish** and a **valid Class 1 Gulf Red Snapper License** may land up to **2,000 pounds per vessel per trip** of red snapper taken from Alabama waters.
- (b) A vessel holding a valid **federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish** and a valid **Class 2 Gulf Red Snapper License** may land up to **200 pounds per vessel per trip** of red snapper taken from Alabama waters.
- (c) The operator of those vessels permitted to land red snapper are **required to present, to any seafood dealer purchasing the red snapper, their federal vessel permit and license.**

(2) Mullet - No bag limit, except: from October 24 - December 31, the possession limit on mullet caught by snagging is 25 fish per boat per day or 25 fish per person per day from the shore. During this period, snagging mullet is prohibited in Theodore Industrial Canal, Dog River, Fowl River, or their tributaries. There is a possession limit of 25 fish per boat per day when snagging mullet in waters closed to the use of gill nets.

(3) Sharks - Alabama waters close to the harvest of all sharks when the federal shark fishery management quotas for Small Coastal Sharks and Large Coastal Sharks are reached. Shark fishing in Alabama waters is allowed from 12:01 AM each Monday through 11:59 PM each Friday (no weekends), but will close from 12:01 AM through 11:59 PM on each of the following holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day.

Large Coastal Sharks:	Prohibited Species:
1. Ridgeback Sharks - Sandbar, Silky, Tiger 2. Non-ridgeback sharks - Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner	Goliath grouper (jewfish), Nassau grouper Sharks & Rays: Atlantic manta, Basking shark, Bigeye sand tiger, Dusky shark, Largetooth sawfish, Sand tiger, Spotted eagle ray, Whale shark, White shark.
Small Coastal Sharks Atlantic sharpnose, Blacknose, Bonnethead, Finetooth	

*Commercial hook and line fishermen in possession of **over the limit of a species regulated by a recreational possession limit shall not possess game fish** (speckled trout, red fish, and tarpon).

Saltwater finfish commercially **harvested in the state** of Alabama **must be landed in this state** and reported through a properly licensed Alabama seafood dealer.

Persons who are transporting commercially harvested saltwater finfish out of the state of Alabama must have in their possession **proof that said finfish were first landed and reported to a licensed Alabama seafood dealer** (a bill of sale, receipt, or trip ticket showing the pounds of fish, the species, the price paid for the product, fishermen's name and license or permit number, the name of the seafood dealer, date of harvest, and date of purchase).

Persons fishing commercially in **federal waters only** must have a **valid federal permit and an Alabama commercial license** in order to land and sell fish in Alabama. **Fish may only be sold to a licensed Alabama seafood dealer.**

